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Future work to strengthen the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The present report was prepared in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/37. It summarizes the efforts of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) to strengthen and expand its training and research activities in the following areas: (a) gender, migration, and development; (b) governance and women's political participation at the local level; and (c) gender, peace and security, in accordance with its strategic frameworks for 2004-2007 and 2008-2011.

The report also describes the efforts of INSTRAW to mobilize resources for its core budget from current and potential donors. Through those efforts, in 2007 INSTRAW raised sufficient funds to finance its core activities and to fully reimburse the subvention that was allocated from the United Nations regular budget earlier in the year.

* E/2008/100.
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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 2007/37, the Economic and Social Council requested the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Woman (INSTRAW) to strengthen its training and research activities in accordance with its strategic framework for 2008-2011 and in line with all relevant United Nations resolutions related, inter alia, to the advancement of women and gender equality. The Council also called on the Institute to expand and intensify its training activities on the basis of lessons learned and good practices in order to have a concrete impact on policies and programmes. The Council further requested the Institute to coordinate its activities and develop its programme of work in collaboration with all relevant United Nations bodies, including the Commission on the Status of Women and other subsidiary bodies of the Council, as well as with civil society, the private sector and academia, bringing to their attention gender concerns in emerging issues, and to strengthen its cooperation with Governments and national gender equality mechanisms.

2. The Council also requested the Institute to continue its fund-raising efforts, including by developing a medium- and long-term resource mobilization strategy, to enable current and potential donors to contribute more funds to the core budget and to consider commitments to multi-year funding. States were invited to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund.

3. The present report responds to the above mandates and provides details on actions undertaken by INSTRAW from May 2007 to May 2008 to implement the resolution. The report is divided into five sections: section I contains the introduction; section II highlights the activities of the Executive Board of INSTRAW; section III details recent and planned activities of the Institute; section IV summarizes the results of resource mobilization efforts; and section V contains conclusions.

II. Activities of the Executive Board of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

4. The Institute functions under the authority of an Executive Board comprising 10 Member States elected by the Economic and Social Council. Members for the period 2007-2009 are: Belarus, Egypt, Grenada, Honduras (President), Israel, the Philippines (Vice-President/Rapporteur), the Slovak Republic, Spain, the Syrian Arab Republic (Vice-President) and Zimbabwe. The Director of the Institute, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, a representative of the host country, the Dominican Republic, and a representative of each of the regional commissions serve as ex officio members of the Board.

5. During the reporting period, the Institute's Executive Board held three resumed fourth sessions, during which it approved the strategic framework for 2008-2011. The strategic framework includes an expanded work programme in the areas of development, peace and security, human rights and emerging issues.

6. The Executive Board also approved the Institute's workplan and budget for 2008 and a medium-term resource mobilization strategy to secure a more sustainable financial base to support its future operation.

7. At its fifth session, the Executive Board approved the Institute's workplan and budget for 2009 and a networking strategy and adopted other major policy decisions and recommendations.

III. Recent and planned activities

8. The Institute's strategic framework for 2004-2007 set the parameters for its pioneering research in areas such as migration and development, the gender dimensions of security sector reform and women's political participation at the local level. In collaboration with its many partners, INSTRAW has developed its programme of work in the context of the three pillars of the United Nations — development, peace and security, and human rights. The Institute emphasized the importance of research, training and information-sharing in a continuous cycle of analysis, learning and action, so that research results are fed into the distribution of information and the design of training and capacity-building programmes, as well as the formulation of policy.

9. INSTRAW successfully completed the implementation of activities envisaged by the strategic framework for 2004-2007. It commenced implementation of the strategic framework for 2008-2011, which carries forward the priorities established in the previous framework. The current framework provides for the consolidation of the Institute's research and training programmes and the enhancement of its knowledge-management capacity to ensure that research results have a concrete impact on policy and programme formulation and implementation and contribute to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

A. Gender, migration, and development

10. The main objectives of the Institute's research on gender, migration and development were to identify existing research gaps, to place women's and gender issues at the centre of the international migration agenda, and to contribute to the formulation and implementation of gender-sensitive migration policies and programmes.

11. In pursuing those objectives, INSTRAW strengthened and expanded its collaboration with various United Nations entities and international, academic and non-governmental organizations. The Institute has, in particular, enhanced its working relationships with such strategic partners as the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Multilateral Investment Fund of the Inter-American Development Bank. With the latter, the Institute organized the International Forum on Remittances 2007 that took place on 18 and 19 October 2007 in Washington, D.C.

12. A series of 11 case studies undertaken by INSTRAW focused on the social, economic, cultural, regional and political heterogeneity of migratory flows. The studies examined the feminization of migration, migrants' participation in the labour

market in destination countries and the gender dimensions of the sending and utilization of remittances, including their impact on community development and household well-being.

13. With support from IFAD, and in collaboration with the Filipino Women's Council, INSTRAW completed a research study of the gender dimensions of remittances sent by female migrants from the Philippines. The study, published in May 2008, analysed the impact of remittances sent by Filipino women migrants working in Italy on recipient households in the Philippines, in particular their impact on rural development and food security. The results of the study will be used to support capacity-building processes for migrant women's associations in Italy.

14. INSTRAW conducted, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Alianza País,[1] a study which brought together a number of governmental, non-governmental and academic organizations in Colombia. The study analysed the dynamics of Colombian migration from the western-central metropolitan area of Bogota to Spain, the flow of remittances sent and received by women, and the impact of those remittances on the development of their communities of origin.

15. With partial funding from UNFPA, and in collaboration with the South African Institute of International Affairs, INSTRAW initiated a case study of female migration, remittances and development in some member States of the Southern African Development Community, namely, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. The case study was published in March 2008. The lack of accurate information and data were among the major challenges encountered during the project. To follow up on this study, INSTRAW is planning to undertake, in collaboration with UNFPA, additional research and analysis of migratory patterns in southern Africa. INSTRAW established an agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to carry out a research project on "Gender and remittances: building gender-responsive local development". The project consists of six case studies initiated in September 2007 in Albania, the Dominican Republic, Lesotho, Morocco, the Philippines and Senegal. The main objectives of the project were to increase awareness and improve access to productive resources for households headed by females that receive remittances; to provide support to local and national governments in formulating policies to optimize the utilization of remittances for sustainable livelihoods and building social capital; and to enhance the capacity of key stakeholders to integrate gender into policies, programmes and projects.

16. As a result of the case studies, additional research and capacity-building activities have been identified to further address the issue of development, migration and human rights from a gender perspective, and the gender dimensions of South-South migration. The Institute also launched a working paper series on gender, migration and development, with specific papers on the feminization of migration, global care chains, remittances, and migration and development. Through those papers, as well as through the second edition of its publication *Crossing Borders: Gender, Remittances and Development*, the Institute aims to refine its conceptual understanding of the linkages between migration and development, including the

[1] Alianza País is a joint initiative created by IOM, the Government of Colombia, the Americas-Spain Association Solidarity and Cooperation, the Network of Public Universities of the Coffee Region and UNFPA to increase synergy on migration and development.

impact of remittances, from a gender perspective. The Institute is also planning to focus its research on such issues as the role of women in cross-border commerce and regional border development, and the formation of global care chains.

B. Governance and women's political participation at the local level

17. In the area of governance and women's political participation at the local level, INSTRAW continued to assist countries, through research and capacity-building: to promote women's political participation, including by focusing on the provision of accurate data about the existing situation in those countries, identifying strategies to improve them, as well as fostering dialogue among the major stakeholders of selected countries to enable the development of a more inclusive political agenda.

18. Since February 2006, INSTRAW has been working on a three-year project entitled "Strengthening governance with a gender perspective and women's political participation at the local level", with funding from the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development and the Institute of Women in Mexico. The main goal of the project has been to promote gender equality, women's rights and women's political participation and leadership in local government planning and management. The project also aimed at awareness-raising among major stakeholders in selected countries of Latin America and the Maghreb region of the importance of women's participation in local decision-making. It also dealt with building local institutional capacities for gender-sensitive public policy formulation.

19. INSTRAW prepared a series of conceptual and capacity-building publications for the Latin American region, including: guide for women's leadership at the local level in Mexico; women's political participation at the local level in Latin America; new gender machinery at the local level in Latin America; participation of indigenous women in governance processes and local governments: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala and Peru; regional diagnostic studies (Central America and the Andean region); and two capacity-building guides on women's political participation and planning from a gender perspective at the local level.

20. In February 2007, INSTRAW completed a series of 10 national discussion workshops in each of the project countries. The workshops brought together over 300 women representatives of civil society, local government, political parties and the United Nations system to debate the results of the studies and to identify concrete steps to increase women's political participation and leadership. In several countries, the workshops presented for the first time an opportunity for civil society and State institutions to share their views on the issue of women's political participation.

21. In October 2007, INSTRAW hosted a virtual dialogue on the theme "Women and the new Culture of debate", which brought together 30 participants from various institutions in order to discuss key issues surrounding the political participation of women in Latin America. The discussion focused on the importance of promoting legislation to fight political violence against women and on positive measures to increase women's political participation.

22. Guided by the results of the research phase, the capacity-building phase of the project began in 2008 with project activities in four countries: Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Guatemala. The project aims to support the creation of a nationally

based organization of municipal women in Costa Rica and to strengthen the management skills of municipal women in Guatemala, in particular through the use of information and communications technology. The activities are being carried out in partnership with the United Nations Development Fund for Women, national women's/gender machinery and non-governmental organizations. In Bolivia and Ecuador, the project is also aimed at providing support for the management and communications skills of municipal women, including through training in political leadership and information and communications technology.

23. The activities of the project in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia will commence in June 2008, in collaboration with the Centre for Arab Women Training and Research. The main objectives would be to share knowledge and experience on women's political participation at the national and regional levels, to start a policy dialogue among the key stakeholders, and to strengthen women's capacities to participate in politics and decision-making.

C. Gender, peace and security

24. In the area of gender, peace and security, INSTRAW promotes gender equality and the empowerment of women in the areas of peacekeeping, peace process, post-conflict reconstruction and security sector reform, through research and capacity-building, including training.

25. In collaboration with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, INSTRAW developed a toolkit on gender and security sector reform which provides policymakers and practitioners with practical information about gender issues and their importance for security sector reform processes and identifies and suggests policies and strategies to mainstream a gender perspective into security sector reform. The toolkit was launched at the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in March 2008, during an event hosted by the Government of Norway.

26. During the preparation of the toolkit, INSTRAW, in collaboration with the Democratic Control of Armed Forces and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, hosted two virtual dialogues, one in April 2007 on gender training for security sector personnel: good and bad practices, and the other in June 2007 on assessment, monitoring and evaluation of security sector reform from a gender perspective. The events contributed to the ongoing development of a gender training community of practice, which INSTRAW will launch in 2008 as a continuation of the exchange of experiences and good practices in gender training.

27. In collaboration with UNIFEM and the Gender Unit of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, and with funding from the Governments of Norway and Austria, INSTRAW has been supporting ongoing security sector reform processes in Haiti to ensure the inclusion of a gender perspective, and the political will and capacity of the Government, security sector institutions and civil society to address violence against women.

28. INSTRAW also began documenting experiences and best practices and developing guidelines and recommendations for the promotion of systematic and

effective gender training among peacekeeping personnel. In this area, the Institute's focus has been on participatory and inclusive development of action-oriented tools for practitioners. The experiences collected, in collaboration with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the gender units of United Nations peacekeeping missions, led to the development of a global mapping on gender training for peacekeepers, as well as a working paper on gender training for peacekeepers: preliminary overview of United Nations peace support operations.

29. INSTRAW continued to work towards the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, both within the United Nations system and at the national and regional levels. The Institute is an active member of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Women, Peace and Security, working on the collection of good practices and lessons learned regarding the implementation of the resolution. It participated actively and substantively in international events organized by the United Nations system at the regional and national levels. The Institute is developing a virtual forum to host follow-up meetings in order to raise awareness on women, peace and security issues among key stakeholders and to establish concrete guidelines and mechanisms for national implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). With funding from the Governments of Austria and Italy, INSTRAW is promoting the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) to raise awareness and build national institutional capacities, including through the development of national action plans.

IV. Resource mobilization

30. The medium-term resource mobilization strategy was developed to guide the Institute in building the requisite donor support for its core budget for the biennium 2008-2009. It focuses on partnership development and the identification of governmental and non-governmental organizations that share the Institute's vision and commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as alignment of programme goals and objectives.

31. In 2007, INSTRAW secured sufficient funds to finance its core activities and to fully reimburse the subventions of $557,800 that had been allocated from the United Nations regular budget earlier in the year. As a result of the increased confidence shown by donors towards the Institute's work, the level of voluntary contributions to its regular operations also increased substantially. The Institute intends to encourage this trend and to intensify its efforts to increase the visibility of its work.

32. The financial situation of the INSTRAW Trust Fund (core activities) as at 31 December 2007 is as follows:

Table
Statement of income and expenditure and changes in reserves and fund balances for the biennium 2006-2007 as at 31 December 2007
(United States dollars)

Income	
Voluntary contributions[a]	1 490 442.31
Funds received under interorganizational arrangements	1 038.53
Interest income	51 522.77
Other/miscellaneous income	1 286 912.71
Transfer from other funds, including programme support cost	(44 325.59)
Prior/future revenues	—
Total income	**2 388 590.73**
Expenditures	
Staff and other personnel costs	1 773 607.08
Travel	207 806.86
Contractual services	179 860.62
Operating expenses	163 546.06
Acquisitions	24 777.54
Subtotal	**2 349 598.16**
Programme support costs	93 968.31
Total expenditure	**2 443 566.47**
Changes in reserves and fund balances	
Excess/shortfall of income over expenditure	(54 975.74)
Reserves and fund balances, beginning of period	564 176.51
Reserves and fund balances, end of period	509 200.77

[a] Voluntary contributions less voluntary contributions receivable of $344,316.07.

V. Conclusions

33. **In accordance with the INSTRAW statute, the Executive Board continued to play a vital role, including the formulation of policies for the activities of INSTRAW, approval of its work programmes and budgets for 2008 and 2009, as well as reporting to the Economic and Social Council and, where appropriate, to the General Assembly. At its fourth and fifth sessions, the Executive Board took a number of important decisions, including the approval of the INSTRAW strategic framework for 2008-2011 outlining an expanded research and training programme of the Institute as well as its programme of work and budget for the biennium 2008-2009.**

34. **The successful completion of the strategic framework for 2004-2007 strategically positioned the Institute to contribute to the goals set out in the**

three pillars of the United Nations: development, including the Millennium Development Goals; peace and security, and human rights. INSTRAW does so by articulating research, training and information-sharing in a continuous cycle of analysis, learning and action, so that research results are fed into the distribution of information and the design of training and capacity-building programmes, as well as through the formulation of policy.

35. The strategic framework for 2008-2011 will carry forward the priorities established in 2004, consolidating the Institute's research and training programmes and enhancing its knowledge management capacity to ensure that research results have a concrete impact on policy and programme development and implementation.

36. Over the past several years, the revitalization process of INSTRAW has resulted in a number of strategic gains, such as the establishment of the INSTRAW Executive Board; the strengthening of cooperative arrangements with United Nations entities, Member States and other stakeholders; the expansion of its research programme; the intensification of its fund-raising campaign, leading to a gradual but steady increase in project funding; and enhanced communications with governmental agencies, civil society, academia and the private sector; which contributed to the success of the revitalization of the Institute, the rebuilding of trust in the Institute and its capacity to deliver, and generating recognition of the value of the Institute's research and training work. INSTRAW will intensify its efforts to further increase the visibility and impact of its work within the United Nations system and among Member States, international organizations and civil society.

37. In conclusion, the Secretary-General takes note with appreciation of the determined efforts in the revitalization process of the Institute made by the outgoing Director of INSTRAW, Carmen Moreno, and the Executive Board and by the Member States that have provided financial and political support to the Institute.